

Telehealth Personalized Cancer Risk Communication to Motivate Colonoscopy in Relatives of Patients With Colorectal Cancer: The Family CARE Randomized Controlled Trial

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ABSTRACT

Purpose

The rate of adherence to regular colonoscopy screening in individuals at increased familial risk of colorectal cancer (CRC) is suboptimal, especially among rural and other geographically underserved populations. Remote interventions may overcome geographic and system-level barriers. We compared the efficacy of a telehealth-based personalized risk assessment and communication intervention with a mailed educational brochure for improving colonoscopy screening among at-risk relatives of patients with CRC.

Methods

Eligible individuals age 30 to 74 years who were not up-to-date with risk-appropriate screening and were not candidates for genetic testing were recruited after contacting patients with CRC or their next of kin in five states. Enrollees were randomly assigned as family units to either an active, personalized intervention that incorporated evidence-based risk communication and behavior change techniques, or a mailed educational brochure. The primary outcome was medically verified colonoscopy within 9 months of the intervention.

Results

Of the 481 eligible and randomly assigned at-risk relatives, 79.8% completed the outcome assessments within 9 months; 35.4% of those in the personalized intervention group and 15.7% of those in the comparison group obtained a colonoscopy. In an intent-to-treat analysis, the telehealth group was almost three times as likely to get screened as the low-intensity comparison group (odds ratio, 2.83; 95% CI, 1.87 to 4.28; $P < .001$). Persons residing in rural areas and those with lower incomes benefitted at the same level as did urban residents.

Conclusion

Remote personalized interventions that consider family history and incorporate evidence-based risk communication and behavior change strategies may promote risk-appropriate screening in close relatives of patients with CRC.

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INTRODUCTION

Family history of colorectal cancer (CRC) is one of the strongest risk factors for the disease. Inheritance is estimated to play a role in 25% to 30% of patients with CRC.^{1,2} Close relatives of patients with CRC have a two- to eight-fold increased risk of the disease when compared with the general population, depending on the age of relatives' diagnoses.^{3,4} CRC screening can reduce mortality as a result of the disease by detecting and removing precancerous adenomas and by detecting cancers at an early, often

curable stage.^{5,6} Several organizations recommend that individuals with intermediate familial risk undergo enhanced screening with colonoscopy no less than every 5 years, beginning either at age 40 years, or 10 years before the age of diagnosis of the youngest family member diagnosed with CRC.⁶⁻⁸ Unfortunately, the rate of adherence to regular colonoscopic screening in this risk group is far below recommended levels,^{9,10} especially among rural and other geographically underserved populations.¹¹ Contributing factors to suboptimal screening include inadequate familial risk assessment and risk

stratification, poor risk communication (including lack of provider recommendation in primary care settings),¹² inadequate access, and psychosocial factors.^{13,14} Limited evidence indicates that written cancer prevention recommendations that are based solely on an individual's family history do not improve risk-appropriate screening.¹⁰ This suggests that risk assessments for nonadherent individuals should be combined with more active interventions, such as engagement of clinicians and strategies that address nonfamilial factors such as psychosocial factors and barriers to screening.

Although the few interventions that have targeted first-degree relatives of patients with CRC demonstrated small to moderate increases in screening, previous studies have not evaluated an intervention's impact on medically verified colonoscopy.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Furthermore, previous interventions have not assessed intervention impact on rural versus urban dwellers. This is critical, given that remote interventions such as those tested here could help address well-documented barriers in this underserved population.¹⁸ Family history is the most widely available genomic tool,¹⁹ yet it is often underused in clinical practice, behavior change counseling, and risk-appropriate screening recommendations.²⁰

METHODS

Study Design

We conducted a cluster randomized, two-group efficacy trial. The key hypothesis guiding this trial was that an intensive, personalized remote intervention (TeleCancer Risk Assessment and Evaluation [TeleCARE]) would lead to significant improvements in colonoscopy use 9 months after intervention, compared with a low-intensity targeted mailed intervention. We also hypothesized that the intervention effect would be strongest for urban dwellers, those with higher household incomes, and those who had health insurance.

The trial was approved by the Institutional Review Boards of participating institutions, and all participants provided informed consent. Random assignment began in September 2009 and ended 2 years later. Primary outcome assessments were completed on September 5, 2012.

Study Participants

The majority of the participants (97.1%) were recruited through patients with CRC from five state cancer registries in California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, and Utah. A small number of patients (2.9%) were drawn from Cancer Genetics Network's population-based registries in Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah,²¹ and also from two hospital-based registries covering approximately 85% of cancer care in Utah (Intermountain Healthcare and Huntsman Cancer Institute).

Eligibility criteria included the following: age 30 to 74 years; considered at intermediate elevated CRC risk, for whom screening guidelines recommend colonoscopy⁶⁻⁸ (having a single first-degree relative diagnosed with CRC before age 60 years, or one first-degree biologic relative diagnosed at age 60 years or older plus an additional first- or second-degree biologic relative diagnosed at any age); no colonoscopy in the last 5 years; awareness of family history of CRC; and ability to read and speak English fluently.

Individuals were excluded if they were a member of a family with a molecular or clinical diagnosis of a hereditary cancer syndrome²²; were currently participating in another research study; received previous clinical or research-based cancer risk counseling; had previously participated in a clinical trial or a behavioral or epidemiologic family cancer study; were mentally incompetent; or had a history of any type of in situ or invasive cancer other than nonmelanoma skin cancer. We did not enroll individuals under age 30 years to limit the possibility of erroneously enrolling members of families with high penetrance hereditary conditions such as familial adenomatous polyposis or Lynch syndrome.

Screening and Random Assignment

Recruitment to the study involved a multistep process, beginning with identification and contact of patients with CRC diagnosed between 1971 and 2009 or their next of kin, and then contact of their relatives, in accordance with each registry's institutional policies. Further details on the study recruitment procedures are described elsewhere.²³ Following the completion of baseline surveys, participants were randomly assigned to one of the study arms using a computer-generated allocation algorithm on the basis of a randomized blocks method (four to eight blocks). Unbeknownst to each family, to avoid experimental contamination, all family members who were enrolled were assigned to the same arm as the first relative to be randomly assigned. Staff who conducted the baseline assessments were not aware of the identity of participating relatives, so as to ensure that they could not predict group assignment of other family members.

Data Collection, Measures, and Primary Outcome Assessment

Eligibility data were collected by telephone. Evidence-based procedures were used for collection of baseline and follow-up data, such as multiple mailings, several survey modes (telephone, mail, web), and \$2 incentives to engage nonresponders.²⁴ Data collectors were blinded to group assignment for the primary outcome assessments.

Each participant self-reported demographic, psychosocial, and clinical data at baseline and 1 and 9 months after intervention. Rural/urban residence determination was based on Rural-Urban Commuting Area codes.²⁵ The primary outcome was colonoscopy use, as verified by medical records, within 9 months after the intervention. The rationale for the 9-month outcome was based on our and others' previous research that suggested that the intervention effect was most likely to be observed within 6 months.^{15,16,26} This time period was extended to 9 months to allow an additional 3 months for individuals living in remote areas where colonoscopy capacity is low and waiting periods are relatively long. Participants who reported colonoscopy were asked to provide written consent to obtain their colonoscopy reports.

Study Interventions

Figure 1 briefly describes the interventions and depicts how the TeleCARE arm was more intensive than the control arm. The interventions are briefly described below and are described in more detail elsewhere.²⁷

Educational Brochure

Participants in the comparison group received a mailed, study-specific educational brochure that was targeted to their familial risk status.

TeleCARE

Participants in the TeleCARE group received a theoretically based^{28,29} intervention consisting of several components. Immediately after completion of the baseline survey, participants were mailed the same educational brochure as the comparison group participants and tailored visual aids in a sealed envelope with instructions to not open until the telephone session with one of five cancer risk specialists (ie, genetic counselors). The sessions were conducted within 1 month after completion of the baseline survey and tailored based on the participant's responses to key items assessed at baseline: family history of CRC; psychosocial factors such as perceptions about CRC risk and severity; beliefs about colonoscopy; and personal factors such as CRC screening history and knowledge, health care access, social support, and barriers to screening. TeleCARE incorporated risk communication and behavior change approaches designed to raise participant perceptions about the threat of familial CRC, arouse fear, enhance beliefs about colonoscopy benefits, and increase self-efficacy and motivation to undergo the procedure. Participants were informed that colonoscopy was the recommended screening strategy because of their risk status. TeleCARE was delivered using the client style of motivational interviewing, which is a client-centered and directive approach for enhancing intrinsic motivation.²⁹ All sessions were audio-taped to assess treatment fidelity. Sessions lasted an average of 39 minutes (standard deviation, 12.2). A tailored letter, summarizing key aspects of the TeleCARE session, was mailed immediately after the telephone session and outlined the participants' stated initial steps toward obtaining a colonoscopy. With the participants' consent, a

| Timeline | TeleCARE | Educational Brochure (control group) |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Baseline | a | a |
| Random assignment | | |
| Intervention | b c d e f | b |
| 1 month post intervention | Intermediate end point assessment (threat and efficacy beliefs, knowledge and decisional uncertainty, and whether or not participant read brochure) | |
| 9 months post intervention | Primary outcome assessment | |

Fig 1. Graphical depiction of the high- and low-intensity interventions. (a) Survey to determine self-reported baseline clinical information, including colonoscopy screening, family history of cancer, sociodemographics, and psychosocial data; (b) mailed educational brochure targeted to participants' risk status; (c) mailed tailored visual aids; (d) tailored telephone cancer risk assessment and counseling session; (e) mailed tailored summary letter of TeleCARE (Tele-Cancer Risk Assessment and Evaluation) session; (f) mailed tailored reminder card.

copy of this and their family cancer history (pedigree) was mailed to the participants' health care provider to encourage further discussion.

The five TeleCARE interventionists were certified genetic counselors employed by the Huntsman Cancer Institute. All were experienced in conducting familial cancer risk assessment and risk counseling. They received initial training in the theoretical foundations of the intervention, the clinical protocol, and motivational interviewing, and they piloted TeleCARE with four analog patients each, with audiotaped sample sessions, before implementing the intervention with participants. Throughout the study, interventionists met regularly with a clinical supervisor to monitor the fidelity of the intervention.

Because health care provider communication about colonoscopy is an important predictor of cancer screening behavior,³⁰ with the participant's consent, copies of the participant's personalized letter and family cancer history in the form of a pedigree were mailed to the participant's provider to encourage further discussion.

Statistical Analysis

The planned and final outcome analyses included eligible and randomly assigned relatives of patients with CRC. Between-group differences in demographic and clinical variables were tested with *t* tests and χ^2 tests. The intervention effect on colonoscopy use was determined with generalized mixed logistic regression models to account for the familial effect. We tested the effect of the interventions for those with a known outcome. Additionally, an intent-to-treat analysis included all eligible participants who were randomly assigned, regardless of whether they withdrew or completed any of the follow-up surveys. Both negative and multiple imputation methods were used to estimate colonoscopy uptake in those with an unknown outcome. We determined whether the intervention effect estimates were sensitive to imputation. Negative outcome imputation assumed that if there was no documented verification of colonoscopy, the procedure did not occur. Multiple imputation was based on verified colonoscopy within 9 months and demographic information, including age, sex, marital status, education level, employment status, household income, health insurance coverage, Rural-Urban Commuting Area code status, and number of first- and second-degree relatives with CRC. Multiple imputation estimates also combined inference from five imputed data sets.³¹ Variables assessed in the a priori exploratory intervention effect modification analysis included rural status, health insurance status, and household income. Variables in the multiple imputation algorithms were adjusted to exclude possible effect modifiers. The odds of colonoscopy uptake were estimated within potential modifier subgroups and compared with the overall odds ratio and 95% CI. Analyses were conducted by two biostatistician coauthors (K.M.B. and L.M.P.), who were blinded to the intervention assignments using SAS (version 9.3; SAS Institute, Cary, NC).

The direct costs associated with the interventions were estimated on the basis of study staff and interventionist salaries, and all labor, telephone, mail, and printing costs associated with delivery of the interventions. The costs of implementing the intervention for each additional colonoscopy received in the TeleCARE group were estimated by first summing the costs associated with intervention delivery, then calculating the number of additional colonoscopies received in the TeleCARE group relative to the comparison group, and lastly, dividing the total costs of the intervention by the number of additional colonoscopies received.³²

We calculated that a sample size of 219 participants per group would provide at least 80% power to detect a between-group difference of 12% in the use of colonoscopy within 9 months. An initial unadjusted sample size per group ($s_0 = 142$) was calculated using NQuery Advisor 7.0 (Statistical Solutions, Cork, Ireland),³³ taking only the hypothesized difference in colonoscopy rates (8% v 12%) into account, and assuming the use of a two-group Fisher's exact binomial test for equality of binomial proportions. Alpha was set at .05, the test was two-sided, and 80% power was required. Adjustment for intraclass correlation was made using the variance inflation adjustment for group-randomized studies: $s_1 = (1 + [\text{mean cluster size} - 1] \times \text{intraclass correlation})s_0$.³⁴ A mean family cluster size of 1.4 and intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.12 was assumed. The sample size was further inflated to account for estimated retention (on the basis of our previous experiences) and success at obtaining records by dividing s_1 by the product of the hypothesized retention rate (80%) and the hypothesized success rate of obtaining colonoscopy reports (85%) to obtain the final sample size of 219 per group.

RESULTS

Study Cohort

The study enrollment, random assignment, and retention data are shown in Figure 2.³⁵ Of those deemed to be eligible after initial assessment ($n = 614$), 496 participants (80.7%) were randomly assigned to one of the two study arms; 15 individuals were found to be ineligible after random assignment. Eligible individuals who underwent randomization ($n = 481$) were included in the analysis; 94% in the TeleCARE arm received their allocated intervention. Only 3% reported that they did not read the mailed materials; thus, we are not able to tease out the effect of each intervention component. With regard to sex, race, ethnicity, number of first-degree relatives with CRC, and year of relatives' diagnosis, randomly assigned participants

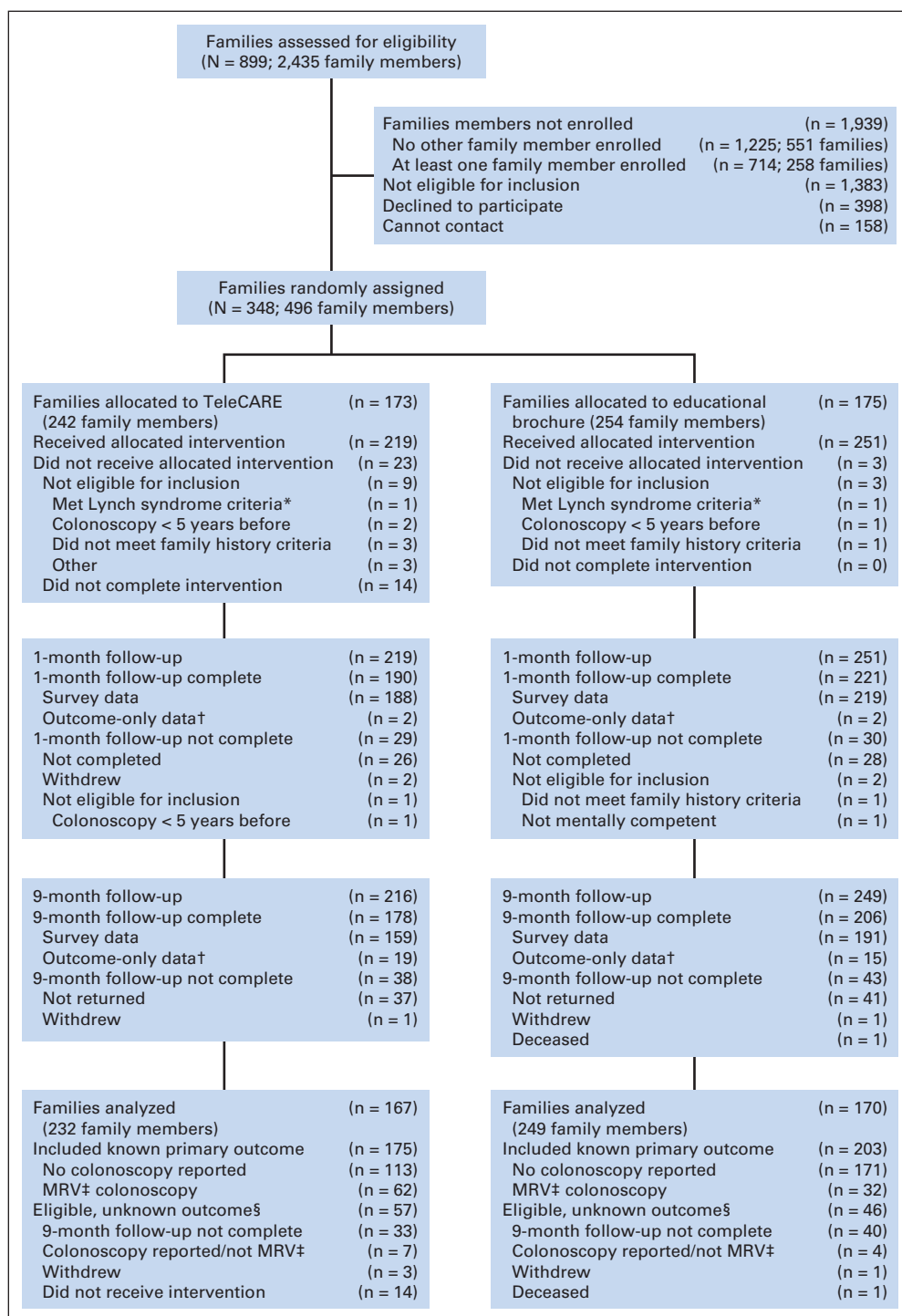


Fig 2. Diagram showing screening, random assignment, and follow-up of the study participants. (*) Based on work by Tan et al.³⁵ (†) Participants who did not complete a survey were asked to complete a very brief survey containing primary outcome questions only. (‡) Medical-record verified (MRV). (§) Included in imputation analysis. TeleCARE, Tele-Cancer Risk Assessment and Evaluation.

were not significantly different from those who were deemed eligible at screening but who did not enroll.²³ Fifty-two percent had another family member enrolled onto the study. Individuals were more likely to enroll when other family members also participated ($P = .02$) and self-reported a previous colonoscopy ($P = .03$). The retention rate was 79.8%, with no significant difference in the percentage of participants from each arm who were available at 9 months for assessment of colonoscopy uptake. Participants whose 9-month outcome data on

key demographic and clinical factors were unknown did not differ from those whose outcome data were known.

Participants in the two groups did not differ with respect to baseline demographic or clinical characteristics (Tables 1 and 2). A total of 81.7% of patients had health insurance, and 22.7% resided in a rural area. The family cluster size was 1.4. Thirty-eight percent of participants' primary care providers were mailed copies of these materials.

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics by Intervention Group for Intent-to-Treat Analysis

| Characteristic | Overall (n = 481) | | TeleCARE (n = 232) | | Comparison Group (n = 249) | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|----------------------------|--------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Age, years | | | | | | |
| Mean | | 50.3 | | 49.9 | | 50.8 |
| SD | | 9.0 | | 9.0 | | 9.0 |
| Sex | | | | | | |
| Female | 276 | 57.4 | 91 | 39.2 | 114 | 45.8 |
| Male | 205 | 42.6 | 141 | 60.8 | 135 | 54.2 |
| Race/ethnicity | | | | | | |
| Non-Latino white | 454 | 94.4 | 215 | 92.2 | 239 | 96.0 |
| Latino | 17 | 3.5 | 9 | 3.9 | 8 | 3.2 |
| Other/unreported | 10 | 2.1 | 8 | 3.5 | 2 | 0.8 |
| Marital status | | | | | | |
| Single | 21 | 4.4 | 10 | 4.3 | 11 | 4.4 |
| Married | 363 | 75.5 | 172 | 74.1 | 191 | 76.7 |
| Separated, widowed, divorced | 97 | 20.2 | 50 | 21.6 | 47 | 18.9 |
| Educational level | | | | | | |
| High school or less | 93 | 19.3 | 51 | 22.0 | 42 | 16.9 |
| Post high school | 206 | 42.8 | 100 | 43.1 | 106 | 42.6 |
| Bachelor's degree | 114 | 23.7 | 50 | 21.6 | 64 | 25.7 |
| Postgraduate | 68 | 14.1 | 31 | 13.4 | 37 | 14.9 |
| Rural/urban residence* | | | | | | |
| Urban | 372 | 77.3 | 173 | 74.6 | 199 | 79.9 |
| Rural | 109 | 22.7 | 59 | 25.4 | 50 | 20.1 |
| Household income (annual) | | | | | | |
| < \$15,000 | 39 | 8.1 | 24 | 10.3 | 15 | 6.0 |
| \$15,000-29,999 | 49 | 10.2 | 22 | 9.5 | 27 | 10.8 |
| \$30,000-49,999 | 91 | 18.9 | 42 | 18.1 | 49 | 19.7 |
| \$50,000-69,999 | 73 | 15.2 | 38 | 16.4 | 35 | 14.1 |
| ≥ 70,000 | 180 | 37.4 | 81 | 34.9 | 99 | 39.8 |
| Missing/refused to respond | 49 | 10.2 | 25 | 10.8 | 24 | 9.6 |
| Employment status | | | | | | |
| Employed | 338 | 70.3 | 166 | 71.6 | 172 | (69.1) |
| Unemployed | 143 | 19.7 | 66 | 28.5 | 77 | 30.9 |
| Health insurance | | | | | | |
| Private | 339 | 70.5 | 164 | 70.7 | 175 | 70.3 |
| Public | 54 | 11.2 | 31 | 13.4 | 23 | 9.2 |
| No coverage | 87 | 18.1 | 37 | 16.0 | 50 | 20.1 |
| Refused to respond | 1 | 0.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.4 |
| Has a personal health care provider | | | | | | |
| Yes | 313 | 65.1 | 152 | 65.5 | 161 | 64.7 |
| No | 143 | 29.7 | 68 | 29.3 | 75 | 30.1 |
| Missing | 25 | 5.2 | 12 | 5.2 | 13 | 5.2 |

Abbreviations: ERS, Economic Research Service; RUCA, rural-urban computing area; SD, standard deviation; TeleCARE, Tele-Cancer Risk Assessment and Evaluation; USDA, US Department of Agriculture; WWAMI, Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho.

*Rural/urban residence was based on RUCA codes at the zip code level. RUCA codes were developed by the University of Washington Rural Health Research Center and the USDA ERS, with the support of the federal Health Resource and Service Administration's Office of Rural Health Policy and the ERS using standard Census Bureau urbanized area and urban cluster definitions in combination with work commuting data to characterize census tracts and later zip codes. The 10 RUCA categories were aggregated into urban (1-3) and rural (4-10), as recommended by the WWAMI Rural Health Research Center.

Primary Outcome

A significantly higher proportion of individuals in the TeleCARE group received a colonoscopy by the 9-month follow-up compared with those in the low-intensity group (34.5% v 15.7%; $P < .001$). The intervention effect was observed in per-protocol and intent-to-treat models, regardless of imputation method (Table 3).

Subgroup Analysis

Neither the analysis that included only those with evaluable outcome nor the intent-to-treat analysis showed evidence

of effect modification that was associated with rural status or household income (Fig 3). No individuals in the brochure-only group without insurance had a medically verified colonoscopy at 9 months; therefore, an accurate intervention effect within the subgroup with no insurance could not be estimated. The intraclass correlation coefficient³⁶ associated with the random variation resulting from familial clustering was low (0.015). The addition of this random component did not statistically improve the fit of the models based on likelihood ratio tests.

Table 2. Family Cluster Characteristics by Intervention

| Characteristic | Overall | | TeleCARE | | Comparison | |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------|----------|------|------------|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| No. of families | 337 | 100.0 | 167 | 49.6 | 170 | 50.4 |
| No. enrolled from the family | | | | | | |
| 1 | 230 | 68.2 | 119 | 71.4 | 111 | 65.3 |
| 2 | 79 | 23.5 | 38 | 28.8 | 41 | 24.1 |
| 3-5 | 28 | 8.3 | 10 | 5.8 | 18 | 10.6 |
| No. of FDRs and SDRs with CRC | 481 | | 232 | | 249 | |
| 1 FDR, 0 SDRs | 390 | 81.1 | 188 | 81.0 | 202 | 81.1 |
| ≥ 2 FDRs, 0 SDRs | 31 | 6.4 | 13 | 5.6 | 18 | 7.2 |
| 1 FDR, 1 SDR | 52 | 10.8 | 30 | 12.9 | 22 | 8.8 |
| 1 FDR, ≥ 2 SDRs | 6 | 1.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 6 | 2.4 |
| ≥ 2 FDRs, 1 SDR | 2 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.4 |

Abbreviations: CRC, colorectal cancer; FDR, first-degree relative; SDR, second-degree relative; TeleCARE, Tele-Cancer Risk Assessment and Evaluation.

The direct cost of delivering TeleCARE was estimated to be \$42.20 per participant; for the print-only intervention, the cost was \$8.20. The difference in colonoscopy rates between the two groups was 19.7%, resulting in 34 additional colonoscopies in the TeleCARE group (Table 3). The estimated total cost of the TeleCARE intervention was calculated at \$9,790 for the 232 participants in this group. Thus, each additional colonoscopy in the TeleCARE group was estimated to cost \$287.95.

DISCUSSION

This two-group efficacy trial used a population-based approach to recruit and enroll members of families at intermediate risk for CRC and to evaluate two remote risk communication interventions involving either personalized telephone counseling and tailored print materials (TeleCARE) or a mailed educational brochure. We found a nearly three-fold increase in colonoscopy uptake among individuals who received the TeleCARE intervention compared with those who received the targeted print materials. Evidence from nonrandomized studies indicates that the benefits of colonoscopy include reductions in incidence and mortality in first-degree relatives of patients with CRC.³⁷⁻³⁹ Results from these epidemiologic studies underscore the potential impact of our intervention.

Our observed effect size was higher than that reported in a personalized risk communication trial of siblings of patients with CRC, in which self-reported colonoscopy was considered in the primary outcome analysis.¹⁵ In the sibling study, the addition of telephone counseling to the tailored mailed print materials did not have an incremental effect. Findings from studies in average-risk individuals have also documented that more intensive interventions are not always better.^{15,40-43}

The impact of the intervention was similar for urban and rural dwellers and was not affected by income category. This is encouraging because our study was motivated, in part, to address geographic barriers to cancer risk assessment and counseling, as well as suboptimal screening rates. These findings suggest that TeleCARE was robust even among those in geographically underserved areas and with lower incomes. Only three of the 65 individuals without health insurance obtained a colonoscopy, indicating that lack of health insurance is a major barrier to accessing colonoscopy and that behavioral interventions do not appreciably overcome this barrier. Provisions in the Affordable Care Act,⁴⁴ if effectively implemented, could potentially increase access to colonoscopy for the uninsured or underinsured.

The direct cost of TeleCARE per additional colonoscopy was \$287.95. To our knowledge, there are no cost analyses of behavioral interventions in target populations similar to ours for comparison.

Table 3. Generalized Mixed Model Results for Intervention Effect on Colonoscopy Uptake Within 9 Months

| Model* | Odds of Having Colonoscopy, TeleCARE v Comparison | 95% CI | P | Medically Verified Colonoscopies | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|--------|----------------------------------|------|------------|------|
| | | | | TeleCARE | | Comparison | |
| | | | | No. | % | No. | % |
| Outcome known | 2.93 | 1.79 to 4.81 | < .001 | 62 of 175 | 35.4 | 32 of 203 | 15.7 |
| Intent-to-treat | | | | | | | |
| Negative outcome imputation† | 2.47 | 1.53 to 3.98 | < .001 | 62 of 232 | 26.7 | 32 of 249 | 12.9 |
| Multiple imputation‡ | 2.83 | 1.87 to 4.28 | < .001 | 80 of 232 | 34.5 | 43 of 249 | 17.3 |

Abbreviations: MI, multiple imputation; TeleCARE, Tele-Cancer Risk Assessment and Evaluation.

*Each of the three separate models (outcome known, negative outcome imputation, and multiple imputation) represents a different treatment of missing outcomes and included a random effect for family.

†Negative outcome imputation treated unknown colonoscopy outcome as no colonoscopy.

‡Average number of colonoscopies based on five imputation sets from the SAS (SAS Institute, Cary, NC) procedure MI.

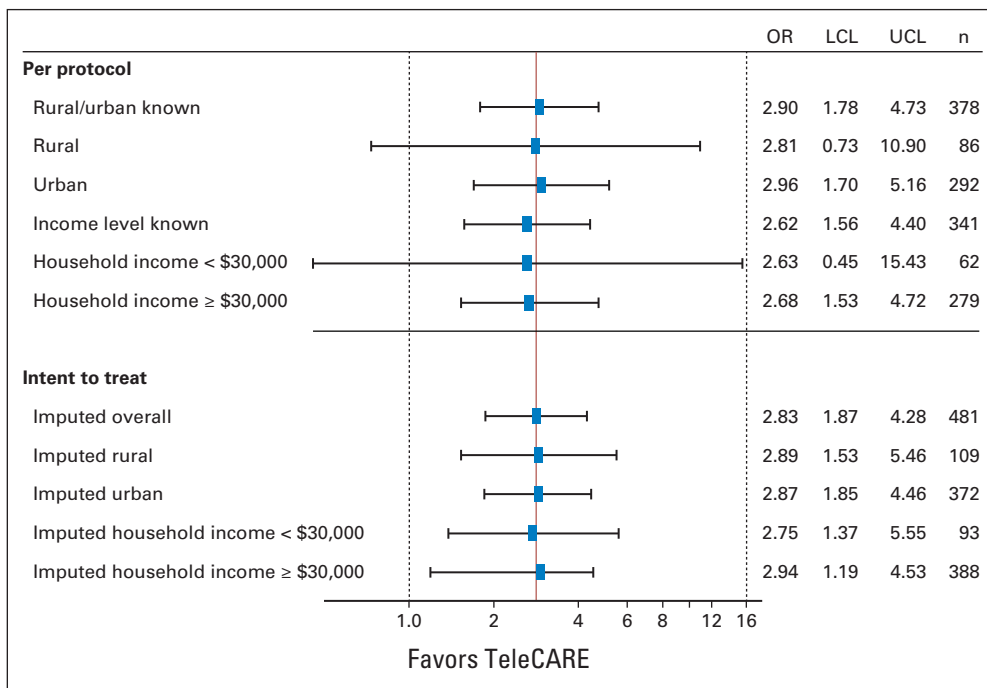


Fig 3. Investigation of effect modification of subgroups on the odds of colonoscopy uptake and 95% CI. TeleCARE, Tele-Cancer Risk Assessment and Evaluation.

Although colonoscopy screening every 5 years in family members of patients with colorectal cancer has value, the cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness of such an approach is not clear.⁴⁵ Future behavioral intervention work should conduct a planned comprehensive analysis.

The study had several limitations. Eligible individuals who did not enroll onto the study, or those for whom outcome data were not available, may have differed systematically across the groups in attributes that we could not observe. Another limitation is the small number of participants from underserved racial and ethnic groups. The subgroup analyses were exploratory and not sufficiently powered to draw definitive conclusions. Our finding that family enrollment affected study participation²³ suggests that it may have influenced the trial's outcome. We were not able to assess this directly, but we encourage future work to assess family communication patterns of enrollees. Ethical constraints precluded the inclusion of a no-intervention control group; however, it seems that a number of participants responded favorably to the low-intensity intervention.

An important limitation is that we were not able to disentangle the contributions of the multiple components of TeleCARE in achieving the desired outcome. However, future plans include process,⁴⁶ mediation, and moderation analyses to evaluate possible mechanisms of action and subgroups for whom TeleCARE was more or less effective. In future studies, a more intensive telephone-based cancer risk assessment and counseling session could be reserved for those who do not respond to either generic or personalized printed materials after a period of time. A stepped-care approach⁴⁷ that is integrated into community oncology practices or health systems that routinely collect family history data, and that systematically increases the intervention intensity, may be a cost-effective alternative approach in this risk group. Cancer registries might adopt such an approach to ensure broad reach of interventions that target relatives of patients with CRC. One-on-one telephone counseling with a cancer risk counselor in a centralized location may be reserved for those who do not respond to

the other intervention components. Future work is also needed to evaluate whether use of other kinds of practitioners (eg, health educators) yields equivalent results. Future stepped-care or comparative effectiveness trials could inform value-driven clinical practice and public health policies with regard to implementing the types of interventions studied here.

The study's strengths include a population-based recruitment approach, a randomized design, inclusion of an appreciable number of rural dwellers, verification of colonoscopy, and provision of the clinical intervention remotely so as to enhance access.

Our findings suggest that a multifaceted remote cancer risk assessment and telephone counseling intervention that incorporates personalized print materials is more effective than an intervention that makes use of nontailored educational print materials alone. We also found that TeleCARE had an impact on rural dwellers that was similar to that observed in urban dwellers. These results provide evidence to guide clinical practice and future research.

AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Although all authors completed the disclosure declaration, the following author(s) and/or an author's immediate family member(s) indicated a financial or other interest that is relevant to the subject matter under consideration in this article. Certain relationships marked with a "U" are those for which no compensation was received; those relationships marked with a "C" were compensated. For a detailed description of the disclosure categories, or for more information about ASCO's conflict of interest policy, please refer to the Author Disclosure Declaration and the Disclosures of Potential Conflicts of Interest section in Information for Contributors.

Employment or Leadership Position: None **Consultant or Advisory Role:** Randall W. Burt, Myriad Genetics (C) **Stock Ownership:** None **Honoraria:** Randall W. Burt, Myriad Genetics **Research Funding:** None

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

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